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(c) Every passenger or other person arriving at Malta shall, before being allowed to land, declare on oath before an inspector of marine police or other superior officer that he has not been in Portugal within twenty-one days; whenever such person does not make this declaration on oath, he shall undergo a period of quarantine on the ship of twenty-one days; provided, however, that any passenger arriving on a vessel carrying a doctor, shall not be required to make the said declaration if he produces to the inspector of marine police, or other superior officer, a solemn declaration in terms of act 5 and 6, William IV, C. 62, to the above effect, signed by himself in the presence of the master on the high sea.

(5) GOODS.

The importation of coffee, beans or ground, colored with substances injurious to health is prohibited.

The importation of cotton seed from any port subject to quarantine is forbidden.

The importation of rags is prohibited.

The importation is forbidden before disinfection, of the following articles, viz, wearing apparel, soiled linen and clothing, bedding materials, feathers, bones, and jute goods.

The importation of hides from any port subject to quarantine or from any place where cattle disease exists, is prohibited before disinfection.

The importation of vines, vine shoots, and fruit packed in vine leaves, is prohibited. The importation of plants or roots from any port of the Mediterranean is prohibited unless the same are accompanied by a satisfactory certificate from the British consular authority that Phylloxera is not known to exist at the place of origin.

By command,

PALACE, VALLETTA, *December 2, 1899.*

G. STRICKLAND,

*Chief Secretary to Government.*

SPAIN.

*Report from Barcelona.*

BARCELONA, SPAIN, *December 16, 1899.*

SIR: Pursuant to Bureau order of November 14, 1899, I have the honor to submit the following report of my visit to this city, made with reference to the emigrant traffic from Eastern Spain to the United States, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, and for a conference with the United States consul-general, Mr. Lay, relative to the plague situation and the danger of its introduction, owing to the close commercial relations and direct railroad communications maintained between Portugal and Spain, and to discuss to some extent the measures and restrictions to be enforced to combat this danger.

Barcelona, as well as being the chief commercial city, is also the largest city in Spain, and carries on an extensive maritime trade with the United States, the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Philippines. Four steamship lines, carrying both passengers and freight, sail directly to ports in Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the United States, averaging 1 sailing weekly. In addition to these, there are a number of freight lines sailing regularly to ports in those countries.

The passenger and emigrant travel from Barcelona to Cuba and Puerto Rico, with a limited number going direct to the United States by way of New Orleans, is considerable. From September 23 to the present date there were 711 cabin passengers and 655 emigrants booked for these places.

From the date of resumption of commercial relations with Spain up to September 23, the travel in this direction was light and no records of it were kept.

Barcelona has no direct trade with the East save in the Philippines, and no coastwise trade (?) on the coast north of Cadiz at the present time. But from Santander and Corunna on the north and Vigo Bay on the northwest coast there is at present, it is understood, a large

emigrant travel to the West Indies and principally to Cuba and Puerto Rico.

The facilities for reaching Barcelona by rail from the northern and western ports of Spain are limited, and the expense of travel thereby is so great as to make travel by rail beyond a limited distance impracticable for the emigrant class. With the exception, then, of those who come from the Balearic Islands, and a small number of Cyprians who come by way of Marseilles, preferably by boat, the emigrant travel to the West Indies is confined to Barcelona and from the nearby provinces. Naturally, then, Barcelona is less liable to infection from Portugal than are the ports on the north, west, and southern coasts, which are less distant and have direct railroad and highway communication with it. However, it is most important that a Service office be stationed here to enforce the quarantine regulations as regards immigration to our ports, and if practicable to also inspect vessels arriving from plague infected or suspected ports.

The "cedula," a personal tax certificate which the Spanish Government requires all subjects, and foreigners as well, who have resided in the domain a certain length of time, to hold, furnishes fairly positive evidence as to where an emigrant comes from, and establishes at the same time data as to the identity of the holder. No one (subject) can leave the country without this certificate, and to use that of another person is punishable with a heavy fine, if detected.

The precautions instituted by the consul-general, who manifests more than a passing interest in the elimination of danger in connection with emigration to the United States and the islands mentioned, and augmented by Assistant Surgeon Anderson since his arrival, appear to be ample and all that are required for the present.

Two of the steamship lines are equipping their steamers with steam-disinfecting chambers, and it is believed the other lines will sooner or later follow this example. It would be more advantageous and more effective to have one steam chamber of sufficient size centrally located on the docks and known as the disinfecting station or room where all work of this nature could be performed, thus obviating the supervision of it at several points and the handling of possibly infected baggage and dunnage on board the several vessels.

The steamship lines here, as far as I have heard, are pleased with the idea of having the inspection and disinfection performed at this end of the line, and are willing to extend any aid toward assisting in the carrying out of the regulations.

The feeling in general as regards the introduction of plague is remote, but, nevertheless, the health authorities appear to be on the alert to prevent any possible source of danger in this direction, as was instanced recently by their declining to allow two towboats from Portugal to come within several miles of the city.

Smallpox exists here, but it is believed not to any great extent. The last report of vital statistics, issued for November, stated 5 cases occurred during that month.

I depart for Madrid to-morrow.

Respectfully,

J. A. NYDEGGER,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*